

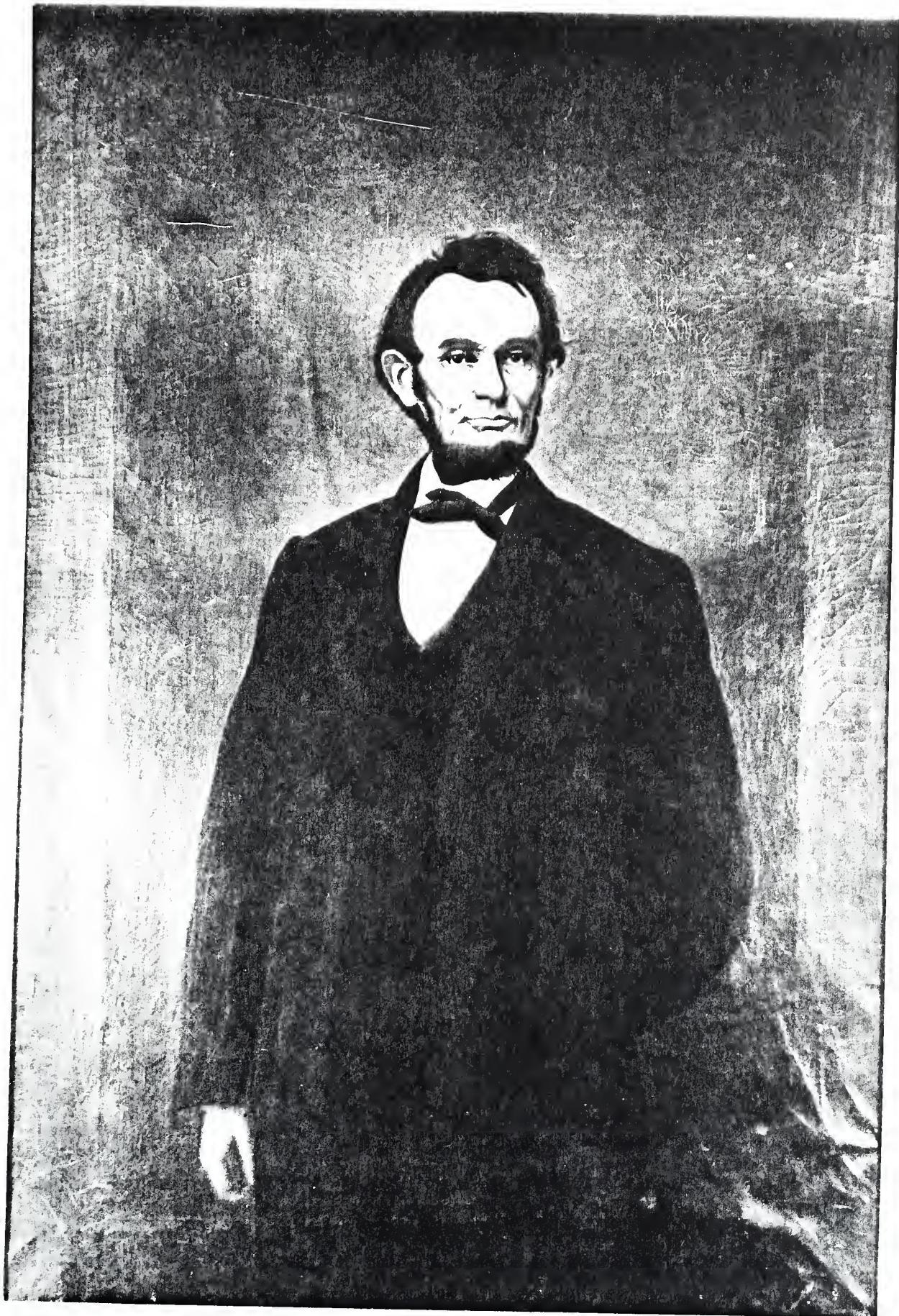
Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

John Lupton

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)





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Jake Zeitlin : Books

614 WEST SIXTH STREET, LOS ANGELES
IMPORTER & DEALER — INCUNABULA,

FIRST EDITIONS, MODERN FINE PRINTING, ART & ARCHITECTURE BOOKS, CALIFORNIANA
AND MEXICANA. LIBRARIES AND SINGLE ITEMS PURCHASED. CATALOGUES ISSUED.
THE GALLERY: ETCHINGS, ENGRAVINGS, LITHOGRAPHS & WOODCUTS BY OLD & MODERN MASTERS

CABLE ADDRESS : JABBERWOCK, LOS ANGELES

TELEPHONE : MICHIGAN 8701

April 9 1935

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Mort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir

Mr F. Ray Riddon suggested that we get in touch with you in regard to a portrait of Abraham Lincoln which we have for sale, and of which we enclose a photograph.

This canvas was painted by T. Lupton, who was Professor of Art at McKendree College, Bellevue, Illinois, and is dated 1866, one year after Lincoln's death. Professor Lupton was a personal friend of Lincoln for many years and this portrait was painted from memory, with the aid of photographs.

It was purchased immediately upon completion by Colonel Thomas W. Eckert, from whom it passed, upon his death, to the present owner.

The painting was exhibited at the Chicago Fair in 1897, and also at the St. Louis Exposition; and again at the Pan-American Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 in the Illinois Building.

The painting is in good condition, except that (as indicated by the photograph) it needs stretching, and varnishing; which we will be glad to undertake if you are further interested.

The present owner wants \$3,000.00 for the portrait, and we would be glad to send it out to you for inspection. I might add that it is insured for a much larger sum, but I am sure that you realize, as well as we do, the importance and rarity of any Lincoln portrait of this period.



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The painting measures 56 by 37 inches.

I enclose typescript of newspaper notice.

Very truly yours,

JAKE ZEITLIN: BOOKS

per Howard Moorepark
Howard Moorepark



Jake Zeitlin : Books

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From Los Angeles Express, Tuesday, January 12, 1909, page 6.

Illustrated.

HISTORICAL PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN OWNED HERE.

The approach of the birthday anniversary of Lincoln brings to light the fact that a historical oil portrait of the martyred president, on which the late Senator John J. Ingalls is said to have placed a value of \$10,000. is owned in Los Angeles. It is the property of Col. T. W. Eckert, whom lives at 526 West Avenue Fifty-three.

The portrait was painted by John Lupton in Lebanon, Illinois., immediately after Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. Colonel Eckert tells an interesting story of how it came to be painted.

Lupton, who has been dead for many years, was professor of art in McKendree college at that time, and won a high reputation for his work.

"On the day following the assassination of Lincoln," says Colonel Eckert, "I called at Mr. Lupton's studio and found him, like scores of others in that little town, almost prostrated with grief over the calamity which had fallen the nation. On his easel before him was a large canvas which he gazed upon with more than ordinary interest. Running his long, bony fingers nervously through his hair, which hung well down upon his shoulders, he said, 'If the inspiration does not fail me, my masterpiece will be placed upon that canvas.'

"'Who will be your subject?' I asked. 'Abraham Lincoln, the martyr,' was his reply. 'Until this is completed,' he added, 'no other work will be done in this studio, and no other thoughts shall occupy my mind.'

"For weeks Mr. Lupton was lost to his former associates, and his recitation room in McKendree college was abandoned for the time. His whole purpose, he said, was to 'bring to life the ideal statesman.'

"When the portrait was finished, Prof. Lupton emerged from his den and invited his friends to criticise his masterpiece. There



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TELEPHONE: MICHIGAN 8701

Express story cont'd. page 2.

were but few 'connoisseurs' in the little village, but the solemn, thoughtful features of the great emancipator were familiar to all the inhabitants of Illinois.

"A few days later I called again with the view of trying to purchase the painting, but realizing my inability to pay anything like the real value, I was reluctant to make my business known. Finally, however, I asked what he would take for the portrait and the price fixed by him being within my cash and security limits, I became the owner of the first portrait painted from the last photograph of the great emancipator.

"Since I have owned this portrait it has been on exhibition in St. Louis, Kansas City and other points, and has been pronounced the most lifelike portrait of Abraham Lincoln ever placed on canvas.

"About a year before the death of ex-Senator Ingalls of Kansas, he saw this portrait, and being a friend of Mr. Lincoln, he commented upon its skilful execution in the minutest detail, and expressed the hope that some day it would be placed in the art gallery at Washington City."

Colonel Eckert was for many years owner of the Arkansas City, Kans., Daily Traveler. He values the portrait highly, not only for its artistic merit, but because of its associations. Governor Deneen, of Illinois, who knew Prof. Lupton, the artist, has recently written to Colonel Eckert expressing the hope that the portrait will be preserved as a public memorial.

April 16, 1935

Mr. Howard Moorepark
c/o Jake Zeitlin:Books
614 W. Sixth St.
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Moorepark:

We thank you very much for calling to our attention the portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Lupton.

We have been much interested in reading the history of this portrait and call it a very fine likeness of Lincoln, but our appropriation will not allow us to acquire any paintings at this time.

However, we have many inquiries here for Lincoln items and I will be very glad to keep your letter and show it to those who may be interested in such an item.

We are continually in the market for Lincoln items and we trust you will advise us if you come across any pieces which you think would fit into our collection.

Very truly yours,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW:MB

Los Angeles, California,
April 29, 1946.

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana.

Attention: Dr. Warren.

Dear Dr. Warren:

I learn through the local library you are Curator of
Lincolnia for The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.

I very naturally bring this case to your attention. I have been asked to try to sell a painting which has been in the possession of the family of a friend of mine almost since it was painted. This painting can be readily authenticated at Springfield, and would stand the most thorough investigation. It is the LUPTON LINCOLN - perhaps the last picture Mr. Lincoln sat for. It has been exhibited in numerous places over the United States, namely San Francisco Exposition, Chicago and Los Angeles and on many special occasions.

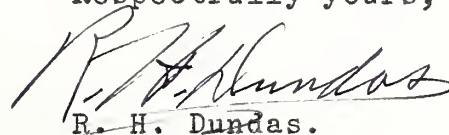
The remaining member of the family is naturally reluctant to part with the painting, as her father knew the President as well as the artist did, and were life-long friends. However, due to reverses in business, it makes it necessary for her to sell the painting.

If this letter finds you sufficiently interested, I shall be happy to forward to you the photostatic copies of necessary material for your consideration.

You may reach me at 990 East California Street, Pasadena 5, California.

Trusting I may receive a favorable reply from you,

Respectfully yours,


R. H. Dundas.

May 6, 1946

Mr. R. H. Dundas
990 East California St.
Pasadena, 5, California

Dear Mr. Dundas:

We are quite familiar with the Lupton Lincoln but our plan here for the acquisition of paintings would not allow us to consider this interesting item.

For many years we have been commissioning modern artists to do Lincolns for us and have chosen this path instead of acquiring contemporary or early canvases.

Thank you nevertheless for calling to our attention this work by Lupton.

Yours very truly,

LAW:EB

Director

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1940 - 1947

1947 - 1950

